

Sports

Netters hammer Pilots decisively

By Steve Smith
Emerald Contributor

The Oregon volleyball team continued its dominance over the University of Portland Pilots with 15-6, 15-6, and 15-13 victories.

The victory raised Oregon's record to 11-3 overall, and 1-3 in the Pacific 10 Conference. Oregon is now 7-0 against the Pilots.

The Ducks jumped out to a quick start and scored seven out of the first eight points. Pilot head coach Carl Neuberger called a quick timeout, and the Ducks responded by scoring the next seven points.

Portland put together three points towards the end, but it was too little too late as Denise Kuhn and Michele Krebsbach combined to stuff a Portland spike. The second game saw a little bit of life early on for the Portland squad. But the Duck dominance came through soon enough and the final score was a 15-6 mirror image of game one.

When the two teams came out after intermission to play the third game, Oregon found themselves facing a rejuvenated Pilot squad. Oregon coach Gerry Gregory had cleared his bench following the second game, and it became clear in the third game that the chemistry was not perfect.

The scoring was streaky throughout the final frame: Oregon jumping to a 5-2 lead only to watch the Pilots rally their way to a 11-6 advantage. In came senior Michele Krebsbach. With her back on the floor, the Ducks rallied to close the gap to 11-9.

But on the strength of great serving by Krebsbach and Melissa Terzian, excellent blocking by Stephanie Drier and Molly McGrath, and spikes

raining down from all areas of the court, Oregon rattled off six of the next eight points to slam the door.

Krebsbach set the tone for the game with 11 kills and 4 blocks. Terzian contributed seven kills, 21 digs, and two service aces. Julie Jefferey played an outstanding all around game with five kills, five blocks, four digs and a service ace. Dawnn Charroin added a service ace of her own to go along with six kills and seven blocks.

Indeed, if Oregon can repeat their performance in the first two games and the tenacity and determination of the latter half of the third game, then two victories are not that unrealistic a goal. The team only had two ball handling errors the entire game, and one each of receiving errors and blocking errors. The Ducks did commit four service errors, which should be cut down to zero.

California and Stanford are similar teams in their makeup. Both finished the season nationally ranked, Cal being ranked No. 17 and the Cardinal ranked No. 7. California returns 11 letterwinners from a team that finished 19-15 (but only 7-11 in the Pac-10). Stanford

boasts 12 returnees from a squad that went 28-3 and 16-2 in the conference.

The key factor in the upcoming game with Stanford could be overcoming the Cardinal abundance of height. The Ducks should be able to counter this with their superior athletic ability and power game. Stanford holds an edge in the series by a 10-1 margin.

For Oregon to beat California, all the starters must do their jobs well. Setters Molly McGrath and Stephanie Snyder will each have to get assists. Dawnn Charroin will have to be counted on for blocks, and Michele Krebsbach will have to supply the firepower. If all these elements are in place, there is no reason why the Ducks won't dominate the smaller Golden Bears and narrow the series gap, which currently stands at 16-5.

Upcoming home games for the Ducks will be Wednesday, October 4 against Portland State at 7:30. On October 13 Oregon takes on UCLA, who completed last season with a 34-1 record, and will be contending for the national title. PSU holds the series edge by a count of 37-10-1, and UCLA has dominated the Ducks in the past by 9-1.

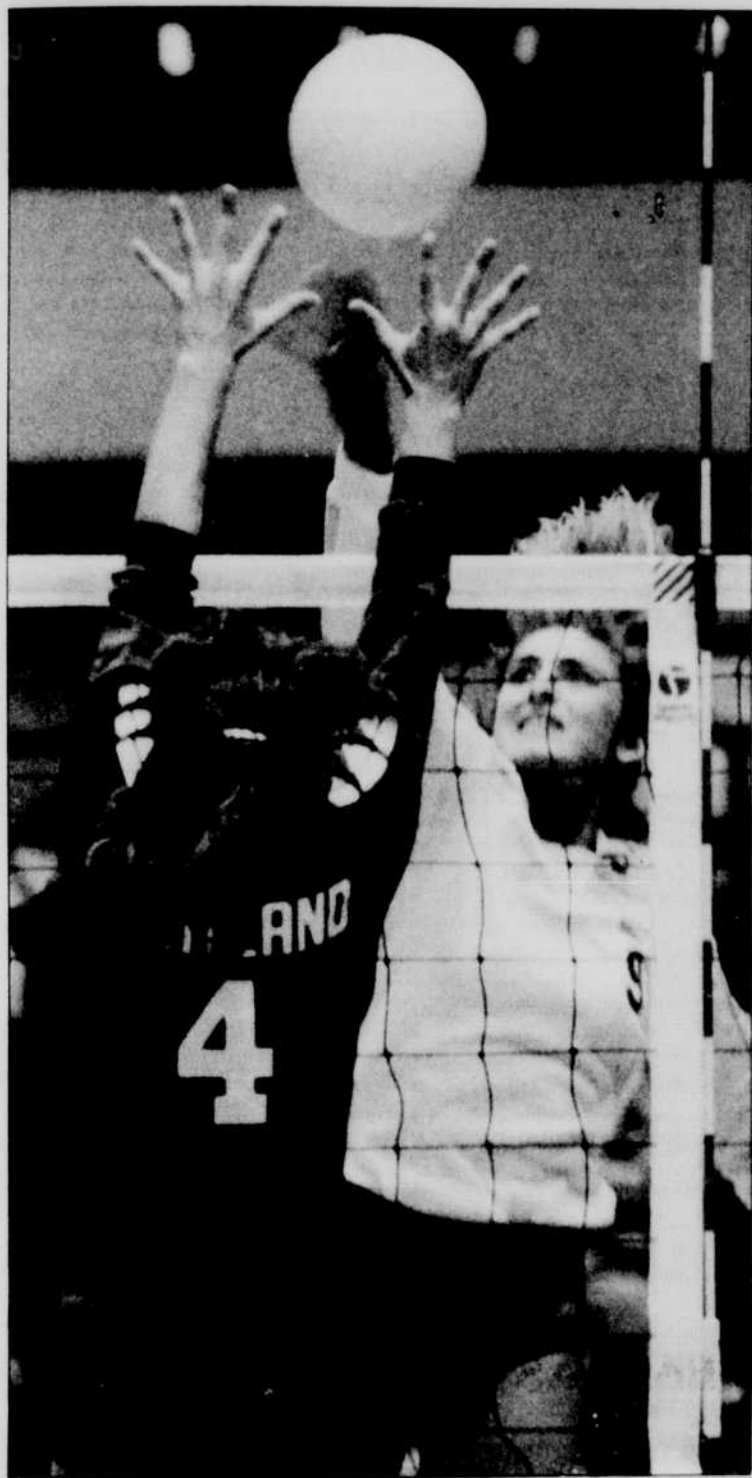
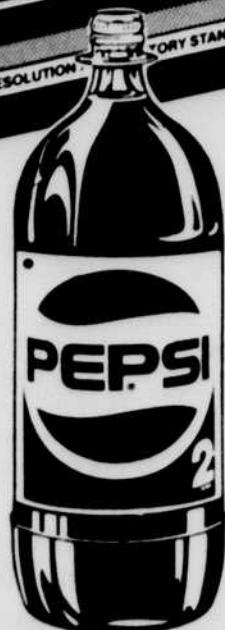


Photo by Martin Thiel

Outside hitter Melissa Terzian contributed to the Duck victory in a big way by scoring seven kills and two service aces. Oregon's victory gave it a 7-0 record against Portland.

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